



# News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting [www.nps.gov/ulsg/](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/).

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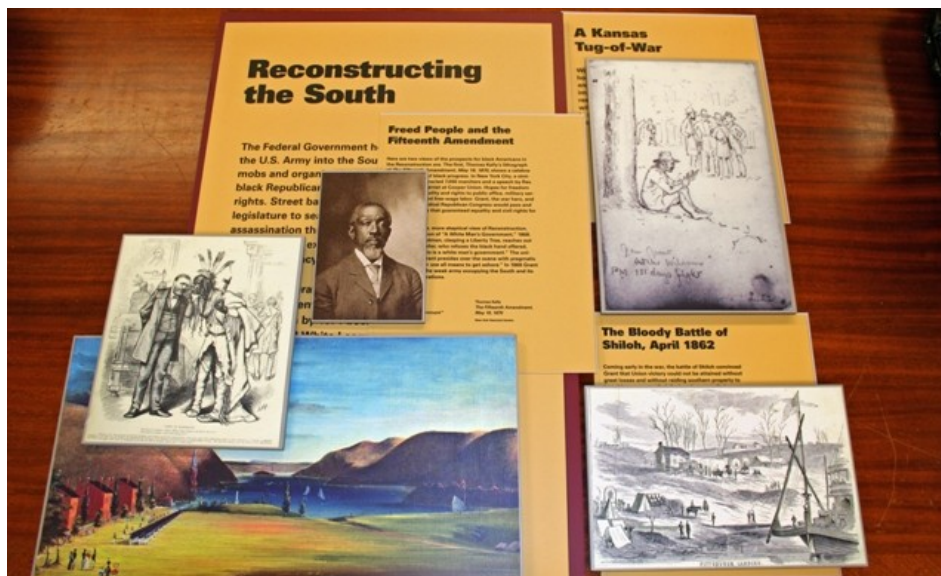
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## New address? Going green?

Update us on your new address or subscribe to News from White Haven online by e-mailing [ulsg\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov) or calling the park at 314-842-3298 x245.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Grant and Lee Finds a Home



The New-York Historical Society donated panels like these from Grant and Lee in War and Peace this spring for use at Ulysses S. Grant NHS.

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site recently became the new home of numerous exhibit panels from the traveling exhibition Grant and Lee in War and Peace.

In 2008 and 2009 the New-York Historical Society hosted the exhibition, which they reimaged from an exhibition they had collaborated on with the Virginia Historical Society, Lee and Grant. N-YHS enhanced the original Grant section with a grant that stipulated that the exhibit materials continue to be used after the exhibit was retired.

They sought a venue where the exhibition could be

presented on a routine basis, which brought them in contact with our site historian Pam Sanfilippo. Through her efforts, Jefferson National Parks Association became the recipient of their work on behalf of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. The panels are at the park, awaiting display space.

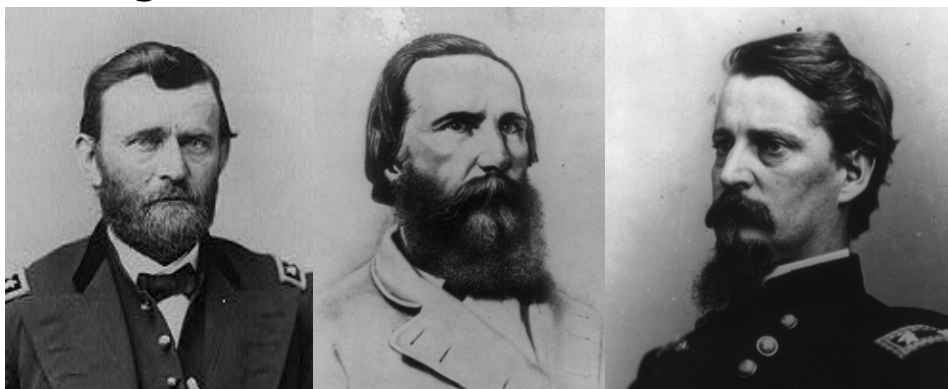
In addition to the historical content, the exhibit panels provide opportunities to explore exhibit development, museum studies and education. The park looks forward to using the panels to create new interpretive and educational programs that foster an atmosphere of learning and public dialogue.

# Soldiers in Love: Army Men and St. Louis Women

The story of how Ulysses Grant met his future wife, Julia Dent, is well-known and an interesting first chapter in their long lives together. The two met shortly after Grant was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry at Jefferson Barracks.

While some of Grant's West Point classmates were assigned to remote posts across the country, Grant found himself in an urban setting. Jefferson Barracks was a large military post and near the prosperous and socially engaging city of St. Louis. Duty there was welcomed by many young West Point graduates. In those antebellum years both city residents and the Barracks hosted numerous balls and cotillions. Even though the infantry at Jefferson Barracks was not Grant's first choice of assignment, his relationship with Julia Dent, may have helped change his mind.

Ulysses Grant was not the only prominent Civil War general to meet his future wife while stationed at Jefferson Barracks. His good friend, and eventual Confederate general, James Longstreet also met his wife while there. Mary Louise Garland was the daughter of the colonel of the regiment to which Longstreet was assigned when he arrived in St. Louis in 1842. Longstreet, a cousin of the Dent family, and Grant visited White Haven together during the brief time Grant was stationed at the Barracks.



Civil War generals Ulysses S. Grant, James Longstreet and Winfield Scott Hancock all met their wives as young Army officers while stationed at Jefferson Barracks outside St. Louis.



Ulysses and Julia Grant's wedding announcement appeared in the Missouri Republican on August 28, 1848, six days after their wedding.

Winfield Scott Hancock, the general of Gettysburg fame, also met his wife while assigned to Jefferson Barracks. Almira Russell's father was a prominent St. Louis businessman. Their wedding in 1850 was reported to be one of the largest society events of the season. Working at the Russell home at that time was the slave Harriet Scott, the wife of Dred Scott. The Russells had hired her from her owner, Dr. John Emerson.

Another West Point graduate and future Confederate general, Daniel Frost, also met his wife in St. Louis during the time he spent at the Barracks. He and Lily Graham were married in 1851. He later resigned from the army and returned to St. Louis. In 1861,

Frost was the general in command of the pro-secession militia forces at Camp Jackson on what is now part of St. Louis University and known as the Frost campus.

Other eventual Civil War generals met their future spouses while stationed at Jefferson Barracks. All of them may have felt the same way as Grant's life-long friend, James Longstreet, who recalled in his memoirs "the hospitable city of St. Louis" and "the graceful step of its charming belles."

*Images of Generals Ulysses S. Grant, James Longstreet and Winfield Scott Hancock are from the Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs collection.*



## Spotlight on the Park: Julia Grant's Letters

This past March Ulysses S. Grant NHS had the pleasure of participating in an auction in which we acquired a group of letters written by Julia Grant to her granddaughter Nellie in the late 1880s and early 1890s.



These letters, written in Julia Grant's hand after her husband's death, are on mourning stationery. Black-bordered notepaper was one way for Victorian women in mourning to signify their loss.

The letters are not only valuable as historic documents, but for many other reasons. They add to an existing body of letters from Julia in our collections and create a more developed understanding of Julia and her relationships with various family members. They also give insights into Julia's opinions on themes of aging, importance of family and strengthening family bonds across distance, attitudes of the times, and much more. These letters are a primary cultural resource tool that enhance our learning about past events and people that still shape our lives today.

## Meet the Staff: Summer Seasonals



Our seasonal staff this year has some new and some familiar faces. For maintenance, we welcome back to the park, pictured left to right, Cory Loeffelman, Josh Whitener and Bill O'Bright. Cory is a student at Mehlville High School, Josh comes to us from Central Methodist College and Bill attends Webster University. Due to their mowing, watering, trimming, cleaning, and helping with repairs, our site looks wonderful.



On the interpretation side we have Chiffontae Ross from the University of Missouri, Nick Sacco from Lindenwood University, David Newmann from St. Louis Community College, James Nelson, who recently completed a job as a team leader with the U.S. Census Bureau, and Katie Bava from Lindenwood University. These summer additions to our interpretation staff allow us to provide even better service to our visitors and complete some much needed projects in the library and in collections.

## Kids' Corner: Letters from Family

Ulysses Grant wrote many letters to his wife and children during the Civil War. When he wrote to his children, he told them about what he was doing, asked them about their activities, and sent small gifts when he could. He told them to be good, how proud he was of them, and how much he missed them.

Pretend it is 1864 and there are no phones, email, texting, Skype or Facebook. Imagine you are one of the Grant children (In 1864, Fred was 14, Ulysses Jr. was 12, Nellie was 9, and Jesse was 6) and write a letter to your father, Ulysses S. Grant, who is away at war. What would you tell him? What would you ask him?



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## Upcoming Events

- July 24: Commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Grant's death with a 10 a.m. ceremony and other events throughout the day.
- August 6-8: 15th annual living history program Night Walk into the Past at 7 p.m. nightly. Call 314-842-3298 x245 after July 1 for reservations.
- October 9: Annual Ulysses S. Grant Lecture featuring Joan Waugh, author of U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth. Reservations can be made after September 1 by calling 314-842-3298 x224.

## Did you know?

In 2009, the Ulysses S. Grant Association moved from its long-time home at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, to the Congressional and Political Research Center of the libraries of Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. One of the undertakings the association started in its new home was the digitization of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant,

the 31-volume annotated collection of Grant's letters and papers that was the lifework of previous Ulysses S. Grant Association Executive Director John Y. Simon. All 31 volumes have been digitized and put online in a searchable format on the Ulysses S. Grant Association Web site. In addition, other elements of the Ulysses S. Grant Collection housed at Mississippi State University, such as Grant-

related music and political cartoons, are now available for viewing online. As more components of the collection are digitized, they will be added to the Association's Web site for public use.

For more information on these resources and on the work of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>